

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 12-15 remain pending.

Non-elected claims 1-4 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of those non-elected and now canceled claims.

Formal drawings are submitted herewith. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt and approval of the herewith formal drawings in the next Official Communication.

The Examiner indicated that the phrase "being deformed" in claim 5, line 2 is slightly unclear. Claim 12 has been amended above to incorporate the limitations of claim 5 and intervening claim 11. Thus, claim 12 now specifies that a piezoelectric actuator in each of the actuator devices, the piezoelectric actuators being deformed according to an amount of energy to displace the movement member between the higher pressure port and the lower pressure port. In this context, it is believed that "being deformed" will be understood by the skilled artisan. In this respect, the "piezoelectric actuator" in an exemplary embodiment, described in particular at page 20, lines 8-15, is charged so as to be expanded by the charged energy and is discharged so as to be contracted. Therefore, the piezoelectric actuator is deformed according to an amount of energy. With the limitation of claim 12 to piezoelectric actuators, it is believed that claim 12 is in full compliance with 35 USC 112, all paragraphs.

Original claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Barron. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to advance prosecution, claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim

5 and claim 11, and claim 5 has been canceled. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection has been mooted.


Claims 6-11 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Barron in view of Schinogle. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, as noted above, to advance prosecution, claim 12 has been presented in independent form and claims 6-11 and 16-20 have been canceled. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection has been mooted.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 12-15 contain allowable subject matter. As noted above, claim 12 has been presented in independent form so that it is respectfully submitted that claims 12-15 should now be allowed.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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